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Museums & Cultural Affairs

The City of El Paso Public Arts Committee (PAC) Tuesday, February 14, 2012, 3:30 PM City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 3:43 pm.

2. Roll Call: Members Present: Rida Asfahani, Ken Gorski, Martina Lorey, Marina Monsisvais, Chair, Ray Parish, Elizabeth Thurmond-Bengtson.

Members Absent: Jesus Alvarado, Floyd Johnson, Gustavo Reveles-Acosta, Jane Thomas.

Others Present: Alejandra Carrillo, Misty Castaneda, Pat Dalbin.

3. Public Comment: None.

4. Approval of Minutes. Chair asked for approval of the Minutes for the last meeting on December 13, 2011. Ray Parish motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Rida Asfahani seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and Approval of the Three Finalists for Citywide Traffic Circle; Margarita Cabrera, Anna Jacquez and Jose Cano. Pat Dalbin began by explaining that Elizabeth Thurmond-Bengtson was a representative of the Public Art Committee on the artist selection panel for the design concept presentations for the three traffic circles. Elizabeth explained that the selection panel was to give local and regional artists an opportunity to break into public art field. The projects would work closely with Pat and her staff as they move through the process of producing the pieces while working with Engineering and the City so that we end up with a beautiful piece and the artists benefit from the experience as well. The three that were chosen were Margarita Cabrera, Anna Jacquez and Jose Cano. Rida Asfahani inquired as to whether each artist was getting a traffic circle, and Elizabeth responded affirmatively. She went on to provide descriptions of each artist's piece, beginning with Margarita Cabrera's "Alma de Acero/Iron Will". The piece is a fiberglass iron with an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in mosaic tile, surrounded by rosebushes. Pat Dalbin explained that it may not be possible to fund with public dollars due to the religious nature of the piece. Elizabeth further explained that the iron represents the working people, or the twin plants and the hard-working laborers. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe represents the female, so it is quite a political concept. She continued with a description of Anna Jacquez's piece, "Nightmare...The Evils of Pan Dulce", explaining that this piece is about dreaming. The piece is a bed suspended above pan dulce. It is a quaint and endearing piece that, if you are from this area, evokes a lot of nostalgic feeling about pan dulce. Marina Monsisvais questioned whether or not the pan dulce would be visible from the angle they are at. Elizabeth explained they are about two feet tall and Pat mentioned they would be scattered around so that as a driver circles, they are visible. Marina then asked if they were made of fiberglass and Elizabeth replied they are made of cement. Rida Asfahani expressed concern that the piece would be fun to interact with and would perhaps be better suited for a park. Elizabeth reminded the group that the whole idea of a turnaround is to slow traffic and drivers will be slowing down to look at the pan dulce. She went on to describe Jose Cano's piece, "Conexion", which is an abstract piece. She mentioned that the panel loved it because as you are going through the traffic circle, all the negative and positive spaces are changing constantly. Marina Monsisvais requested a motion to approve. Ray Parish made the motion; Martina Lorey seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion and Action on Artist Greg Reiche Design for Fire Station #5 located on Revere and Gateway East. Pat Dalbin briefly reiterated a presentation made by the artist in regard to his design using a 3D model of the fire station constructed by the artist. She began by noting the discussions the artist had with people that live and work in the fire stations. He used images that were left in his mind after 9/11 of fallen beams and silhouettes of buildings. He feels that firemen are our heroes and they work hard to save lives and property. A general discussion of his three design ideas using 1/2" solid round

stock and dichroic glass followed. Pat mentioned that the architect will design a low fence to surround the property using the same material the artist uses for his piece in order to complement the building. He will also use dichroic glass on windows that run around the top perimeter of the building. Marina Monsisvais requested a motion to approve the design. Rida Asfahani made the motion; Ken Gorski seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and Action on Catherine Widgery Design for the Mesa RTS Project. Pat Dalbin began by explaining that the artist is integrating art in all of the station shelters inbound and outbound for the Rapid Transit Service. She is using see-through mesh material to help with shading and working with a local artist from UTEP, Patrick Walker, as her intern. He is taking images of local plants and she is using them on the mesh. A brief presentation followed that depicted the plants and images she is working with. Martina asked if the mesh was coated, and Pat replied affirmatively. Martina then inquired about the durability of the product and Pat replied that it is being used a lot in public art project areas with high traffic. General discussion followed and the chair requested a motion to approve. Ken Gorski made the motion; Ray Parish seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

8. Public Art Status Report. Pat Dalbin mentioned that Stanton Bridge mural work is underway and the City has put out a press release inviting the media to meet the artist on Thursday, February 16th between 1pm and 3pm. She extended the invitation to Public Art Committee members as well.

9. Adjournment. Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Elizabeth Thurmond-Bengtson moved to adjourn; Martina Lorey seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm. Next meeting scheduled for March 13, 2012.

Approved for content by:
Patricia Dalbin, Public Art Program Coordinator

Respectfully submitted by:
Misty Castaneda, Administrative Assistant